



377 Research Parkway, Suite 2-D
Meriden, CT 06450-7160
203-238-1207

**TESTIMONY RE: RAISED BILL 5126
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT**

**Committee on Environment
March 1, 2010**

TO: Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment
Committee
FROM: Anne Hulick, RN, MS, JD; Environmental Health Coordinator,
Connecticut Nurses' Association

Good morning Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment
Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut
Nurses' Association (CNA), the professional organization for registered nurses in
Connecticut (CT), representing over 52,000 nurses. I am Anne Hulick, RN, MS, JD, a
nurse with many years of experience in critical care, cardiology, nursing administration
and most recently, as the Environmental Health Coordinator for CNA. The Connecticut
Nurses' Association strongly supports H.B. 5126, *An Act Establishing A Chemical
Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut*.

H.B. 5126 is a win-win for Connecticut citizens and Connecticut industries. With
increasingly stringent international regulations on chemicals, and a lack of federal law
addressing this issue, Connecticut industries bear the burden of the need to shift from
using harmful chemicals in their work processes to safer alternatives in order to reduce
exposure to workers and to compete in the global marketplace. However, a shift to safer
alternatives often requires significant research, change in workflows and training, all of
which require significant expense. The Chemical Innovations Institute will provide much

needed support to state businesses and industry by serving as a “one-stop shopping” resource to arm businesses with research and technical information on safer alternatives. In addition, it will assist with training for businesses on international chemical regulation, assist with chemicals management and coordinate and share information from the Interstate Clearinghouse and other state institutes.

Harmful chemicals are increasingly linked to rising incidence of cancers, birth defects, asthma, diabetes and learning and behavioral disorders. A Chemical Innovations Institute can help protect public health both by assisting industries that use these chemicals for certain work processes but also those businesses that would like to shift to safer products for cleaning and maintenance of their work environments. For example, Connecticut has many health care facilities where employees work in a variety of roles to assure the delivery of high quality patient care. Yet, many of the solutions used to clean the floors, patient rooms and equipment contains toxic chemicals, exposing both the users, other employees and patients to harmful chemicals. Health care facilities, like other industries, have limited capital and resources to research new solutions and train staff in the use of new materials. As a result, exposure to harmful chemicals in our health care facilities, just like other Connecticut businesses and industries, is commonplace. A Chemical Innovations Institute can help to position Connecticut as a national leader, both in reducing chemical exposures and reducing the economic burden of shifting to safer alternatives for Connecticut industries.

I urge your support of H.B. 5126.